AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A controlled release and taste-masking oral pharmaceutical composition containing an active ingredient, comprising:

a) a lipophilic matrix consisting of ~~C_6-C_{20} alcohols or C_8-C_{20} fatty acids or esters of fatty acids with glycerol or sorbitol or other polyalcohols with carbon atom chain not higher than six~~ lipophilic compounds in which an active ingredient is at least partially incorporated;

b) an amphiphilic matrix in which an active ingredient is at least partially incorporated; and

c) ~~an outer~~ a hydrophilic matrix in which [[a]] said lipophilic matrix and said amphiphilic matrix are dispersed.

2. (currently amended) The controlled release composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, comprising a lipophilic or inert matrix consisting of lipophilic compounds with a melting point below 90°C and wherein the active ingredient is at least partially inglobated and a hydrophilic matrix.

3. (currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, further comprising amphiphilic compounds that are polar lipids of type I or II, ceramides, glycol alkyl ethers, esters of fatty acids with polyethylene glycols or diethylene glycols.

4. (currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, wherein the ~~lipophilic matrix consists of~~ composition further comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of unsaturated or hydrogenated alcohols or fatty acids, salts, esters or amides thereof, mono-, di- or triglycerides of fatty acids, the polyethoxylated derivatives thereof, waxes, and cholesterol derivatives.

5. (currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic matrix consists of hydrogel-forming compounds.

6. (currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 5, wherein the hydrophilic matrix consists of compounds selected from the group consisting of acrylic or methacrylic acid polymers or copolymers, alkylvinyl polymers, hydroxyalkylcellulose, carboxyalkyl-cellulose, polysaccharides, dextrins, pectins, starches and derivatives, alginic acid, natural or synthetic gums, and polyalcohols.

7. (currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, comprising a gastro-resistant coating.

8. (currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 7, wherein the gastro-resistant coating consists of methacrylic acid polymers or cellulose derivatives.

9. (currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~the active ingredient is wholly contained in an inert/amphiphilic matrix,~~ said composition is in the form of tablets, capsules or minitablets.

10. (currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~the active ingredient is dispersed both in the hydrophilic matrix and in a lipophilic/amphiphilic matrix,~~ said composition is in the form of tablets, capsules or minitablets.

11. (currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, in which the active ingredient belongs to the therapeutical classes of analgesics, antitussives, bronchodilators, antipsychotics, selective β 2 antagonists, calcium antagonists, antiparkinson drugs, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, antihistamines, antidiarrheals and intestinal antiinflammatories, apasmolytics, anxiolytics, oral antidiabetics, cathartics, antiepileptics, topical antimicrobials.

12. (currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim [[10]] 1, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of mesalazine (5-

aminosalicylic acid), budesonide, metformin, octylonium bromide, gabapentin, carbidopa, nimesulide, propionylilcarnitine, isosorbide mono- and dinitrate, naproxen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, diclofenac, thiaprophenic acid, nimesulide, chlorhexidine, benzydamine, tibezonium iodide, cetylpyridinium chloride, benzalkonium chloride, and sodium fluoride.

13. (currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, containing bioadhesive substances.

14. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, in the form of tablets chewable or erodible in the buccal cavity or in the first portion of the gastrointestinal tract.

15. (currently amended) A controlled release and taste-making composition, comprising:

a) a ~~first~~ lipophilic matrix comprising lipophilic compounds with a melting point lower than 90°C;

b) an amphiphilic matrix; and

c) ~~an outer~~ a hydrophilic matrix wherein the lipophilic matrix and said amphiphilic matrix is dispersed.

16. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 15, wherein said ~~first~~ lipophilic matrix ~~contains~~ further comprises amphiphilic compounds and said amphiphilic compounds are selected from the group consisting of type I polar lipids, type II

polar lipids, ceramides, glycol alkyl ethers, and esters of fatty acids with polyethylene glycols or diethylene glycols.

17. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 16, wherein said type I lipids and type II lipids are selected from the group consisting of lecithin, phosphatidylcholine, and phosphatidylethanolamine.

18. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 15, wherein said lipophilic matrix consists of compounds selected from the group consisting of unsaturated or hydrogenated alcohols or fatty acids, salts, esters or amides thereof, mono-, di- or triglycerides of fatty acids, polyethoxylated derivatives thereof, waxes, and cholesterol derivatives.

19. (currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 15, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of mesalazine (5-aminosalicylic acid), budesonide, metformin, octylonium bromide, gabapentin, carbidopa, nimesulide, propionylilcarnitine, isosorbide mono- and dinitrate, naproxen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, diclofenac, thiaprophenic acid, nimesulide, chlorhexidine, benzydamine, tibezonium iodide, cetylpyridinium chloride, benzalkonium chloride, and sodium fluoride.

20. (previously presented) A controlled release and taste-making composition, comprising:

a) an active ingredient inglobated in a matrix or coating consisting of amphiphilic compounds to form a matrix;

b) said matrix is incorporated in a low melting lipophilic excipient or mixture of excipients to form an inert matrix; and

c) said inert matrix is mixed together with one or more hydrophilic water-swellable excipients.